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Message Text

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46
ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /113 W
---------- 084961
R 291005Z JUN 74
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2365
INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IN, SK
SUBJECT: SIKKIM

REF: NEW DELHI 8624

1. THE CHOGYAL IS EXPECTED TO SEE PM GANDHI JUNE 29 BUT THE IMPRESSION GIVEN BY MEA OFFICER (NORTHERN DIVISION KISHAN RANA) TO EMBOFF IS THAT IT WILL BE PRO-FORMA MEETING IN WHICH PM WILL MERELY REITERATE WHAT CHOGYAL HAS ALREADY HEARD FROM OTHER GOI OFFICIALS.

2. THE SIKKIM ASSEMBLY RECONVENED JUNE 28 AND AGAIN PASSED-- ARTICLE BY ARTICLE -- THE CONSITUTION BILL TO REEMPHASIZE THAT THIS BILL REPRESENTS THE WILL OF THE ASSEMBLY. LEADER OF THE SIKKIM NATIONAL CONGRESS AND OF THE ASSEMBLY, KAZI LENDHUP DORJI, TOLD THE ASSEMBLY--ACCORDING TO DELHI PRESS REPORTS-- THAT "THE CHOGYAL CAN STILL GIVE HIS ASSENT TO THE BILL BUT IF HE FAILED TO DO SO IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE ANY FUTURE ROLE FOR THE CHOGYAL IN SIKKIM." DORJI IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SENT A MESSAGE TO FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH (WHO IS CURRENTLY IN
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BULGARIA) ASKING THAT THE GOI NOT PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THE CHOGYAL

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AND THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO GET THE SIKKIMESE PEOPLE TO DEAL WITH THE CHOGYAL.

3. DORJI REPORTEDLY ALSO SENT A MESSAGE JUNE 28 TO THE CHOGYAL ASKING HIM TO RETURN, ASSURING HIM THAT THE SIKKIM CONGRESS WOULD TRY TO PERSUADE THE PEOPLE TO RESPECT HIS STATUS AND ENSURE HIS PERSONAL SAFETY AND WELL-BEING AS WELL AS THAT OF HIS FAMILY. AT THE SAME TIME, IT EXPRESSED SHOCK OVER HIS EFFORT TO DEAL WITH THE GOI INSTEAD OF HIS OWN PEOPLE AND WARNED HIM HE SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE MOUNTING ANGER OF THE SIKKIM PEOPLE. THE MESSAGE PURPORTEDLY CONCLUDES WITH THE HOPE THAT THE CHOGYAL WILL PLAY THE ROLE OF A "WELL-WISHER AND A RESPECTED FATHER-FIGURE."

4. MEAN OFFICIAL TOLD US THE GOI HAS NO FIRM POSITION ON WHAT IT WILL DO IF THE CHOGYAL CONTINUES TO BALK BUT INSISTS INDIA DOES NOT INTEND TO ALTER THE FUNDAMENTAL PROTECTORATE RELATION-SHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND SIKKIM. REFERENCES TO SIKKIMESE INVOLVE-MENT IN INDIAN POLITICAL INSITUTIONS IN THE CONSITUTION BILL ARE PERMISSIVE AND WERE INSERTED AT THE "INSISTANCE" OF THE SIKKIM CONGRESS AND ABSOLUTELY NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE BY THE GOI ABOUT IMPLEMENTING THESE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE OFFICIAL SAID ANY SUSTANTIVE POWER FOR THE CHOGYAL WAS INCONSISTENT WITH THE PROCESSES OF REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY IN SIKKIM AND THE CHOGYAL WOULD SIMPLY HAVE TO ACCEPT THIS.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, DEPENDENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE08673
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740173-0503
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974061/aaaaaaos.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NEW DELHI 8624
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Aug-2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIKKIM
TAGS: PINT, IN, SK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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